

# Long Island State Veterans Home



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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May 19, 2020

Dear LISVH Family Member:

As Day 70 of the battle against the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) comes to a close, we want to update you on the conditions at the Home. Our goal is to maintain clear and constant communication with you – our families.

Earlier today, we received revised guidelines from CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Their Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Safety Oversight group issued a ten-page document to provide guidance to the fifty states on how to mitigate further transmission of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in nursing homes. The document lists various benchmarks the Home must achieve as regions begin to open up. We spend a good part of each day preparing strategy as we navigate what the future will be for our Home. Again, please be assured that we continue to follow all federal, state and local guidelines. Being in full compliance is our top priority.

We have 116 residents who are currently positive for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). One hundred twelve are here at the Long Island State Veterans Home and four are at Stony Brook University Hospital. Out of the 116 residents who have tested positive, 60 are in a Post-COVID-19 recovery phase. Once again, we continue to use 21 days or more after initial diagnosis for this category. All our recovered veterans are an incredible inspiration to our caregivers.

This global pandemic has not been kind to Long Island. The total deaths associated with COVID-19 in Nassau and Suffolk Counties to date is approximately 3,800, according to Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 tracker. Sadly, our Home was not immune from the virus and 77 of our residents have succumbed to this deadly illness. All of them had multiple comorbidities as well. With Memorial Day fast approaching, it is a time to self-reflection and to salute our fallen heroes. It is a time to recognize and to feel gratitude for the selfless service and sacrifice of brave men and women. We are planning a virtual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Home and plan to post it on our website this coming Memorial Day. This year's ceremony has special meaning for all of us, and we hope you can experience it virtually from your home.

We want to reiterate that we are complying with the New York State Governor's Executive Order to have all nursing home employees tested twice a week for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The New York State Department of Health has provided us with test kits, therefore we are planning to have testing performed on-site later this week. In addition, our employees can utilize the New York State Department of Health's drive-thru at Stony Brook University P Lot as well as other alternative sites throughout Suffolk County. Since March 10, 2020, of the 675 employees here, 91 have tested positive. Thirty-nine are recuperating at home and 52 have fully recovered and are back at work. Tomorrow, we are also offering a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) antibody test to all employees. The testing will be performed on-site and is available to all employees at no cost. Knowing the antibody status of our work force provides us with important information, we are pleased to offer this test to all employees.

On the Personal Protective Equipment front, supplies remain adequate. We had some major deliveries yesterday and our staff continue to have all the proper PPE needed to provide care to your loved one.

In closing, we again want to thank families for their calls and letters. Your continued vote of confidence is extremely uplifting to our frontline caregivers. While the immediate future remains unpredictable for Long Island, the one thing you can count on is the dedication and commitment of our staff. Again, if we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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